Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062475
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062475

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EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PPDC, OVIP, SN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. WE WILL RECOMMEND THAT VP TRIP TO AREA BE ACCOMPANIED BY PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS TO PMS LEE (AND ONN). WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON DRAFT FOR LEE CONTAINED FOLLOWING PARA. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

I REMEMBER WELL OUR WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION IN WASHINGTON LAST YEAR ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AS WELL AS OUR SUBSEQUENT CORRESPONDENCE. I AM VERY INTERESTED IN THE PROGRESS OF YOUR REGION AND HAVE ACCORDINGLY ASKED VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO VISIT SEVERAL NATIONS IN ORDER TO REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND I ATTACH TO ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. CERTAINLY, HAD IT BEEN FEASIBLE, BOTH THE VICE PRESIDENT
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AND I WOULD HAVE WISHED THAT HE ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SINGAPORE.

SINCE I LAST WROTE, THERE HAVE BEEN MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS ON ISSUES WHICH COULD ASSUME GLOBAL IMPORTANCE, INCLUDING THE

MIDDLE EAST AND THE HORN OF AFRICA. IN ADDITION, THE

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EVOLUTION OF POLICY IN CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO BE MARKED BY INTRIGUING COMPLEXITY. THERE HAVE A'SO ,EEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ON CERTAIN ECONOMIC ISSUES OF GENERAL CONCERN. IN ALL OF THESE AREAS, AS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA, THE UNITED STATES SEEKS TO PURSUE ITS INTERESTS WITH FULL CONSIDERATION FOR THE VIEWS OF OUR FRIENDS SUCH AS SINGAPORE, KNOWING THAT THEIR PROSPERITY AND WELFARE ARE DEPENDENT ON WORLD EVENTS.

IN THAT REGARD, THE VICE PRESIDENT DURING HIS TRIP WILL PRESENT AMERICAN THOUGHTS ON SOME OF THE MAJOR LONGER-RANGE ISSUES OF OUR TIME -- FOOD, ENERGY, TRADE, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN CONDITION. HE WILL ALSO BE EXPRESSING OUR RECOGNITION OF ASEAN PROGRESS AND OUR HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ITS FUTURE AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE IN WASHINGTON. I WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT, BUT HE AND I WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATIVE OF ANY THOUGHTS YOU MIGHT HAVE WHICH WOULD FURTHER CONTRIBUTE TO OUR UNDER-STANDING OF THE VIEWS OF LEADERS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ON THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN US ALL.

I VERY MUCH HOPE TO BE ABLE TO VISIT SOUTHEAST ASIA AT SOME FUTURE TIME. A NUMBER OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ISSUES, HOWEVER, PREVENT ME FROM UNDERTAKING SUCH A TRIP
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THIS YEAR.

SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT.

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